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WEEKEND, APRIL 1-3, 2016

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ROCK 'N READ

Book on Joel Plaskett shows you can be from here—and make it

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JEFF HARPER/METRO



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5

THINGS GOING ON IN HALIFAX THIS WEEKEND

From high-flying jumps to live music and a possible peek at the popular prime minister, here are some highlights for the weekend across HRM.



**Haley
Ryan**
Metro | Halifax



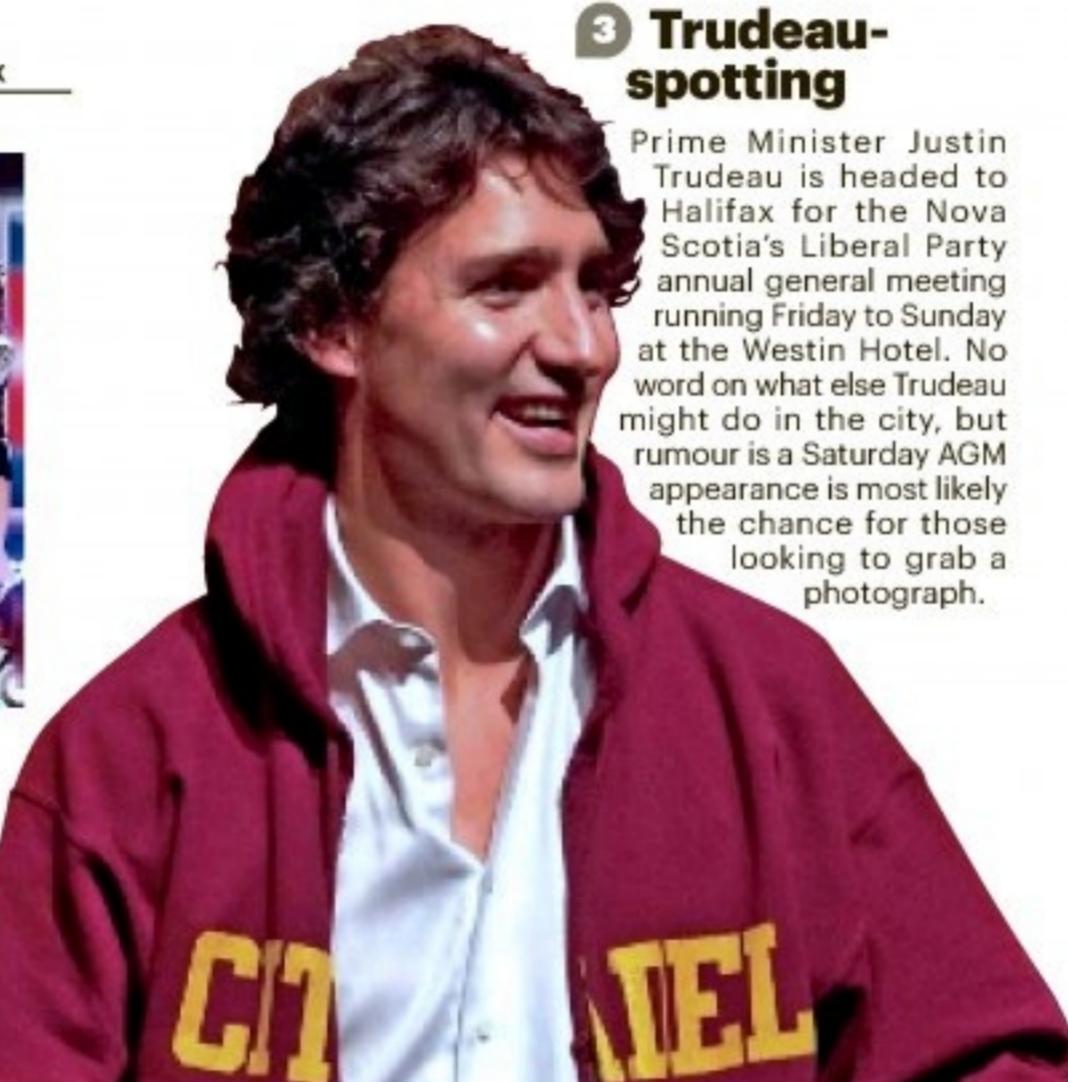
1 Bring it on!

Break out your glitter and spandex, because CheerExpo's Competitive Cheerleading National Championships are at the Halifax Forum on Saturday and Sunday. Starting at 9 a.m. each day over 100 teams will battle it out to win the national banner, and go for the opportunity to represent Canada at The ONE Cheer and Dance Finals and The USASF World Cheerleading Championships. **Tickets \$15 per day or \$25 for weekend.**



2 Music from the rock

Cape Breton Rocks is spotlighting at The Marquee Ballroom in Halifax at 9 p.m. Friday. **Featured artists include Port Cities, Jordan Muscyn, Dave Sampson, Maggie and Cassie, Howie MacDonald, and Colin Grant** along with Halifax's legendary back-up man, Davie MacIsaac. **Tickets are \$20 plus tax.**



3 Trudeau-spotting

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is headed to Halifax for the Nova Scotia's Liberal Party annual general meeting running Friday to Sunday at the Westin Hotel. No word on what else Trudeau might do in the city, but rumour is a Saturday AGM appearance is most likely the chance for those looking to grab a photograph.



4 Space: The symphonic frontier

Join Symphony Nova Scotia at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic for the free family concert Space: The Final Frontier. From Romantic works to soundtracks and video games, the music is sure to ignite imaginations with sounds from sci-fi favourites like Star Trek and Star Wars. You might even get a peek of Captain Kirk or Darth Vader. **A sensory friendly performance Sunday at 1:30 p.m., and regular performance at 3 p.m.**



5 Wedding day wow factor

The annual **Bespoke: The Wedding Event** comes to the Lord Nelson Hotel on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. where Halifax's top wedding experts transform eight spaces into completely different and creative wedding themes. Attendees can enjoy a glass of wine and hors d'oeuvres as they browse each room to get wedding inspiration, or just come to admire the designs.

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POLICE

Dad charged after baby found in van

A Halifax father has been charged with abandoning his child after a crying baby was found alone in a locked van.

At about 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 20, Halifax Regional Police responded to the area of College and Summer streets for a report of a baby locked in an unattended minivan.

According to a release, police found the baby in a child seat in the rear of the van. Officers determined that the baby, who was crying and sweating, was in distress. The officers broke a window of the van and removed the baby, who was checked by paramedics.

A man determined to be the

PUBLICATION BAN

The man's name is being withheld due to a publication ban.

father of the child showed up shortly afterwards. The Department of Community Services also attended the scene.

A 55-year-old Halifax man was arrested without incident on Feb. 4 at police headquarters. He appeared in Halifax provincial court Thursday morning to face a charge of abandoning a child.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



BOMB SCARE DARTMOUTH BUSINESS GETS THREATENING CALL Police say they found nothing suspicious after a bomb threat was called in to a business in Dartmouth Thursday morning. At 8:33 a.m. police responded to a business in the 0-100 block of John Savage Avenue for a bomb threat call after the business had received a threatening phone call from an anonymous caller. The all-clear was given about two hours later. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Two teen boys held for alleged assaults



Kristen
Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

Halifax police arrested a couple of teenage assailants who allegedly assaulted two men Thursday evening, including a bus driver who had just finished his shift.

Several witnesses saw the assaults take place at 24 Nantucket Avenue in Dartmouth just before 5 p.m., Halifax Regional Police said, adding the first victim was a 46-year-old Halifax Transit driver who was walking toward the bus terminal when he was confronted by a group of about 10 young people.

One of the boys punched

him, while another kicked and punched him, police said.

The group then took off towards the Dartmouth Sportsplex, where they approached their second victim, a 43-year-old man, in the parking lot. The same two boys punched him, with one taking out "a pipe-like object" and smashing the tail light of the victim's car before threatening to use the weapon on him, police said.

Witnesses in the area were able to detain a 16-year-old boy until police arrived, while officers arrested a 15-year-old boy a short time later.

Paramedics checked both victims on scene, but neither victim needed to be taken to hospital for treatment.

GAIL BENOIT

Accused of selling cats without proper certificates



Haley
Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Convicted animal abuser Gail Benoit has been charged again for violating the Animal Protection Act.

On Thursday, the Nova Scotia SPCA said in a release that after a visit from their cruelty investigators on Tuesday Benoit has been charged with selling of cats without veterinary certificate of health, and refusing to provide information required by an Inspector or Peace Officer in the exercise of their powers or performance of duties.

Benoit will appear on these charges in Dartmouth provincial court on April 19 at 9:30 a.m.

In January 2009, Benoit was convicted of animal cruelty for selling sick puppies.

She was at first banned from selling dogs, but that was later extended to buying, selling or giving away any animal.

That ban has since ended.

In June 2014, Benoit was sentenced to 15 months of probation for stealing and selling two dogs from a woman in New Brunswick. She was banned from buying or selling domestic or wild animals, but that has now expired as well so Benoit was free to legally sell animals again.



Gail Benoit. TC MEDIA FILE PHOTO

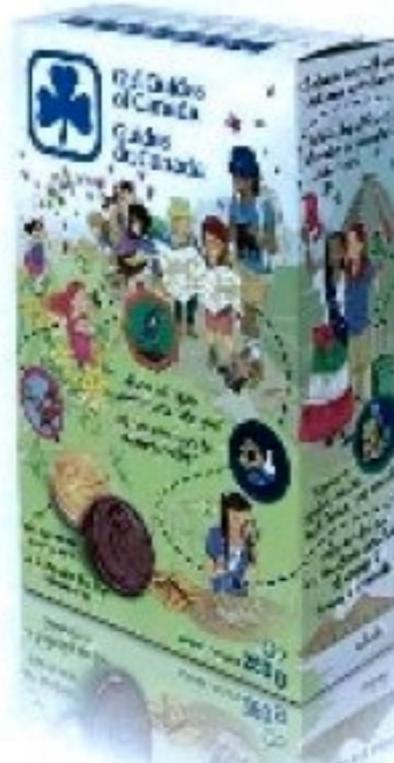
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Schools failing students of African descent: Board

EDUCATION

Provincial test results show lower scores

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

The Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) chair says the school system is "drastically failing" students of African descent.

At an HRSB meeting Wednesday evening, staff presented a report breaking down the 2014-15 provincial assessment scores by

ancestry of local students.

The presentation showed a "significant gap" between students of African descent and others regarding Grade 8 HRSB reading and math results.

The results found 76 per cent of the 3,135 HRSB students who wrote the test were at or above grade level for reading, compared with 58 per cent of students of African descent (of 201) and 80 per cent of aboriginal students (of 129).

In Grade 8 math, 58 per cent of 3,079 HRSB students scored at or above their grade level, compared to 31 per cent of those of African descent (of 191), and 48



There's nothing wrong with the black learner any more than any other student, so what is it that we need to do differently?

Board chair Melinda Daye

per cent of aboriginal students (of 126).

"That's quite disheartening once again, and unacceptable," board chair and African Nova Scotian representative Melinda Daye said Thursday. "I just shrugged my shoulders, like, 'What the heck is going on here?'"

The report added that 79 per cent of 3,536 Grade 10 HRSB stu-

dents scored at or above grade level in English, compared with 60 per cent of the students of African descent (of 223).

Further, 68 per cent of 2,546 Grade 10 HRSB students scored at or above their level in math, compared to 43 per cent of 127 African students, and 59 per cent of 87 Aboriginal students.

For Mathematics 10 at Work,

51 per cent of HRSB students scored at grade level compared with 30 per cent of African students (of 76), and 56 per cent of Aboriginal students (of 45).

"We are drastically failing ... the African Nova Scotian students," Daye said.

"There's nothing wrong with the black learner any more than any other student, so what is it that we need to do differently?"

Daye said the numbers prove the board must examine what can be done to bring up the scores of black students, but new measures like extra supports and facilitators introduced over the last year could help.

CHILD CARE

Pay and subsidies 'deplorable'

Nova Scotia's Minister of Education Karen Casey says staff pay and parental subsidies in the province's regulated child care system are deplorable, and improvements are coming. Her department found that at \$12.84/hour, pay rates for early childhood workers are among the lowest in Canada.

The report also calls for a boost to subsidy rates for low-income parents, lowest in the country.

"It is a fact, it's what we have and I wanted to know what we have so I can act on it and make improvements," said Casey.

The report makes 18 recommendations aimed at making the system more affordable and accessible.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



TUNNEL VISION ON THE TRAIL

An ATV driver heads out for an early morning ride underneath a colourful mural on the BLT (Beechville Lakeside Timberlea) trail.

Temperatures in the Halifax region soared to 12 C in the afternoon, providing a welcome taste of spring.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

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Halifax Explosion makes history



**Yvette
d'Entremont**
Metro | Halifax

"Hurry! You've got to get these people out of here. That ship is going to blow," an actor playing train dispatcher Vince Coleman breathlessly says during a heritage minute re-enactment of the Halifax Explosion.

The Heritage Minutes series is an iconic Canadian trad-

ition, providing short snippets of important moments in the country's history. Vimy Ridge, Terry Fox, Superman, Laura Secord and Agnes MacPhail are among 82 varied videos that make up the series.

On March 31, the Halifax Explosion minute was crowned champion of the Heritage Minutes following Historica Canada's #Minutes-Madness Twitter contest.

Andrea Hall, communications spokeswoman for Historica Canada said the contest

62%

The iconic moment beat the contending Viola Desmond video with 62 per cent of the vote.

began March 7 as a lead-up to the 25th anniversary of the launch of the Heritage Minutes.

Each week viewers got to choose between a selection of videos. The contest garnered more than 2,000 votes. Voting closed at midnight Thursday.

The final two Heritage Minutes left standing were from Nova Scotia: the Halifax Explosion and the story of Viola Desmond challenging segregation in the province in the 1940s.

Desmond's Heritage Minute defeated the Underground Railroad, while the Halifax Explosion short video beat Dr. Wilder Penfield, credited with "drawing the road map of the human brain."

On Thursday morning, the Halifax Explosion video won over Viola Desmond with 62 per cent of the overall vote.



Vincent Coleman at the end of the winning short. HANDOUT

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There will be 14 officers stationed, including a K-9 unit, starting Friday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Police take over airport security

STANFIELD INTERNATIONAL

Regional force replaces RCMP as of April 1



**Zane
Woodford**
Metro | Halifax

Halifax Regional Police take over armed response and policing

services at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport on Friday.

Regional council ratified the contract in January, after the force won the contract late last year, according to a release.

Fourteen officers will be stationed – a sergeant, 12 constables and a K-9 unit. Officers received special training and have been working with the RCMP, who had held the contract previously, ensuring a smooth transition.

Duties include "armed re-

sponse to the passenger and baggage screening areas and non-passenger vehicle screening," along with general emergency services and patrolling.

The contract, worth about \$1.7 million, doesn't exactly make money for the municipality, but deputy chief Bill Moore told Metro there are other benefits for the force. The contract also allows police to hire 14 new people to replace those going to the airport, which saves about \$600,000.

RACIAL PROFILING

Nova Scotia in denial: Francis

Nova Scotia's first black lieutenant-governor says the province is in a state of denial when it comes to racial profiling, saying she has often been the victim of "shopping while black" since she left her viceroyal post four years ago.

Mayann Francis said she decided to speak out after Nova

Scotia-based grocery chain Sobeys Inc. announced it will appeal a human rights inquiry decision that found one of its Halifax stores discriminated against a black customer.

Francis, who served as CEO of the rights commission until she was appointed lieutenant-

governor in 2006, said hearing about the case of Andrella David motivated her to attend a protest and speak out.

Francis said steadfast denial has been a part of the province's history of racism, and is why racial profiling continues to be a problem. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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How Joel Plaskett made it big

BOOK

Author looks for secret of musician's success

Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

His face is on the cover, but *Nowhere With You* isn't really about Joel Plaskett.

"It's about the notion of creating art in the Maritimes, in a place that so many people leave behind so constantly," the book's author, Josh O'Kane, said from his adopted home of Toronto during a recent telephone interview.

"This is a guy who stayed behind and was able to have this really celebrated creative career and this really celebrated art — celebrated across the country — without having to compromise where he lived, written from the perspective of someone who decided he had to go."

O'Kane, a New Brunswick ex-pat *Globe and Mail* reporter, spent two years of his life documenting Plaskett's, but more so documenting the "socio-geographic-economic-whatever context" that enabled the Juno award-winning Dartmouthian's decades-long career.

And even though that's how he pitched it, Plaskett was, at least at first, admittedly reluctant to play along.

"I was kinda like, 'I don't know if a book's gonna be that interesting, to be honest,' maybe because there isn't a bunch of drug problems and divorces in my life," he said during a telephone interview from the van on the road to Cape Breton on Thursday — oddly, the exact same setting as the first page of O'Kane's book.



Joel Plaskett sits in his Dartmouth Studio, New Scotland Yard last year. JEFF HARPER/METRO

The author was persistent, Plaskett said, and the overarching theme of the never-ending Maritime struggle of whether to stay put or split town eventually won him over.

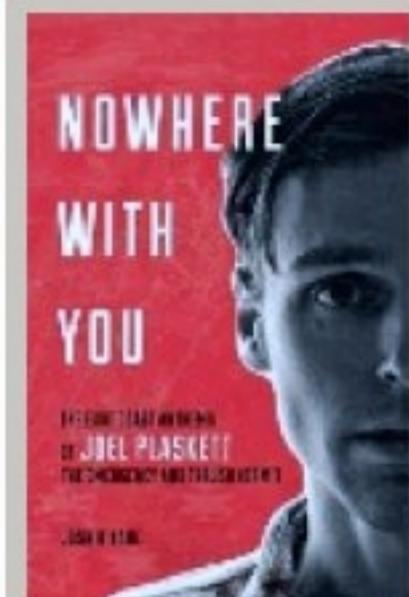
"Those are themes I tackle

This is a guy who stayed behind and was able to have this really celebrated creative career ... without having to compromise where he lived. — Josh O'Kane

in my songs, and he was obviously picking up on that feeling that there was a story to be told there," he said.

For O'Kane, the book was a way to make sense of his feelings about Plaskett's music

+ BOOK LAUNCH



CONTRIBUTED

Nowhere With You is officially out on Friday, and author Josh O'Kane and subject Joel Plaskett will be at the Carleton in Halifax on April 16 at 2 p.m. to launch the book and do an onstage Q&A. A similar event is scheduled in Toronto in early May.

— which he calls the soundtrack to his move from the Maritimes to the big city in 2009 — and his feelings about leaving home.

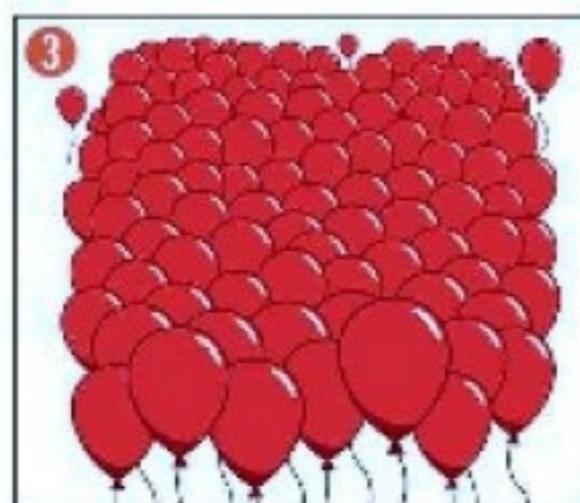
He does that by looking back at why exactly Maritimers have left home for so long.

"I start out with a very broad story of why the Maritimes are so isolated, and then I zoom in bit by bit," he said.

That context, he said, allows his reader to "really understand just how crazy it is that this was able to happen, that Joel Plaskett's career was able to happen."

Plaskett understands he's fortunate to have been able to stay, and while he had opportunities to leave, "there were always more pluses to staying."

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'We can't let those people die in vain'

TRAGEDY

Six adults, 3 kids killed in First Nation community fire

A First Nations chief says the deaths of nine people in a house fire on a remote northern Ontario reserve should spur the federal government to improve what he says are third-world conditions on dozens of reserves.

"We can't let these people die in vain," Isadore Day with the Chiefs of Ontario said Thursday.

"There should be a direct and immediate response to this situation. This is typical across all First Nations that are living in third-world conditions."

A blaze that erupted in a family home late Tuesday night on the Pikangikum reserve killed six adults and three children.

Ontario Provincial Police said investigators and a stress team were in the community, but finding the cause of the blaze could take "a week or more."

A fundraising page created by a community member identified the dead as Gilbert and Annette Strang, their daughter Faith, Faith's husband Dietrich Peters and the younger couple's three children — Ireland, 4, Aubree, 2, and eight-month-old Amber.

The Strangs' son Gilbert and his wife Sylvia Peters also died in the fire, it said.

Previous inquests into similar tragedies have highlighted the challenges facing remote northern reserves such as Pikangikum.

Homes are dilapidated, not built to comply with any modern code and often don't have running water, let alone a smoke detector. There are often several generations of families sharing a tiny bungalow, heightening the potential toll fires can take when they break out.

"Most homes are simply a death trap," Day said.

Any fires spread quickly and communities are often woefully unprepared. Many don't have fire trucks and rely on water trucks with no more pressure than a garden hose. If a com-

munity is lucky enough to have a fire truck, there are often not enough trained volunteers to operate it properly, inquests and internal government reports have found.

Day said more than 90 per cent of homes don't have running water in Pikangikum.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett said Thursday the deaths underscore the need to improve living conditions on reserves. She said money in the recent federal budget will help improve the deplorable state of reserve housing. But she couldn't say when a community such as Pikangikum could expect vastly improved living standards.

National Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations said the federal budget was a good start to make up for decades of neglect. Too many indigenous people are dying in fires that are completely preventable, he said.

"How many more deaths have to happen before action is implemented? It's not acceptable in 2016." THE CANADIAN PRESS



This photo posted to Faith Strang's Facebook page shows her three children, Ireland, standing in black, Aubree, standing holding a bottle, and Amber, in the walker. Faith, the three children, and five other family members are believed to have been killed in a fire on the First Nations reserve in Pikangikum, Ont. on Tuesday. FACEBOOK

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

P.E.I. to allow access to abortions

Prince Edward Island has agreed to provide abortions within the province by the end of the year, ending decades of forcing women to travel to neighbouring provinces to access the procedure.

The Island's Liberal government announced Thursday it will not fight a legal challenge launched in the province's Supreme Court by the group Abortion Access Now, which says the province has an obligation to provide safe abortions under the Charter

of Rights and Freedoms.

PEI is the last province in the country to allow abortion access within the province, 28 years after the 1988 Morgentaler decision of the Supreme Court struck down laws restricting abortion in Canada.

Women from the Island must currently travel to New Brunswick or Nova Scotia to get abortions paid for by the Island government.

The group that launched the recent lawsuit said Thurs-

day's announcement was the culmination of years of relentless lobbying for change.

Health Minister Robert Henderson said Health PEI has been told to develop plans for a women's reproductive health centre somewhere on the Island. He says it should be in place by the end of the year.

He said the new centre, to be located within a hospital, will offer a range of services including counselling.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Court rules Vice must give up background material

A Canadian news outlet must give the RCMP background materials used for stories on Farah Shirdon, a suspected terrorist, despite the reporter's

objections, a judge has ruled. The Vice stories in 2014 were based on conversations Ben Makuch had with Shirdon via an online instant messaging app called Kik Messenger. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economy kicks off 2016 with strong growth

The Canadian economy kicked off 2016 by rocketing higher, raising hopes for better-than-expected growth this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Architect Zaha Hadid dead at 65



World-renowned British-Iraqi architect Dame Zaha Hadid, best known for her design of the London Aquatic Centre, has died after suffering a heart attack in Miami. She was 65.

"It is with great sadness that Zaha Hadid Architects have confirmed that Dame Zaha Hadid died suddenly in Miami in the early hours of this morning," according to a statement from her company.

Born in Baghdad, and based in the U.K., Hadid was perhaps the most famous female architect in the world, and was the first female recipient of many top industry awards, including the 2004 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

In 2015, she became the first solo female winner in 167 years to receive the Royal Institute of British Architects' Gold Medal.

Known as a true 'Starchitect,' a term given mostly to male architects, her innovative and futurist structures can be seen all over the world.

Queen Elizabeth honoured her with 'Dame' status in 2012.

Hadid's larger-than-life career faced many obstacles, in an industry that's still known to be male-dominated and often unfavourable to women. She frequently spoke about the prejudices she faced as a female architect.



"Starchitect" Zaha Hadid

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Weeknights at 6 Hannah counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day.

SIX@6 LAST NIGHT:

6 Rihanna ft Drake Work

5 Fifth Harmony ft Ty Dolla Sign Work From Home

4 G-Eazy ft Bebe Rexha Me, Myself and I

3 Hedley Lose Control

2 Meghan Trainor No

1 Lukas Graham 7 Years



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IN BRIEF

United Nations plagued by sex abuse allegations

The United Nations on Thursday announced 108 new alleged victims of sexual abuse, the vast majority of them minors, by peacekeepers in Central African Republic, and it called "shocking to the core" a report that three girls said a French military commander forced them to have sex with a dog.

The revelations widened the scope of a scandal that has persisted for months.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greek lawmakers ready to OK migrant deportations

LEGISLATION

Over 50,000 stranded at border with Macedonia

Lawmakers in Greece were ready to support legislation to deport refugees back to Turkey as clashes between migrants persisted Thursday at overcrowded detention camps.

A three-hour fight broke out overnight between groups of migrants camping out in Greece's main port of Piraeus, leaving

eight people injured and requiring treatment at nearby hospitals.

The clashes, believed to have been between Afghan and Syrian migrants, left the area strewn with rocks and broken glass. New protests were also reported at detention camps on the Greek islands of Lesbos and Chios, from where deportations to Turkey are due to start next week.

More than 50,000 refugees and migrants have been stranded in Greece after Balkan countries closed their borders to the massive flow of refugees pouring into Europe. Some 11,500 remain camped out at the border



Due to be voted on Friday, the bill would set conditions for refugees and migrants to be sent back to Turkey from the Greek islands. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

with Macedonia, ignoring instructions from the government to move to organized shelters. Hundreds of those camping out in Piraeus were boarding buses Thursday for newly created refugee camps elsewhere in Greece.

Government officials described the violence as minor.

In Athens, the government submitted draft legislation required for the landmark migration agreement reached this month by the European Union and Turkey to take full effect. The deal aims to break the smuggling rings that have brought hundreds of thousands of people from Turkey across the Aegean

Sea to Greece.

Due to be voted on late Friday, the bill would upgrade Greek asylum services and set conditions for refugees and migrants to be sent back to Turkey from the Greek islands.

The returns are to start Monday, but most support staff promised by other EU countries have still not arrived on Greek islands, and the method of how to return the refugees is still being negotiated between the EU, Turkey and Greece.

Turkey's prime minister said the deal with the EU will go into effect as scheduled on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIA

Overpass collapse kills dozens

A long section of a road overpass under construction collapsed Thursday in a crowded Kolkata neighbourhood, with tons of concrete and steel slamming into midday traffic, leaving at least 21 people dead and scores of others injured in the Indian city, police said.

Rescuers used saws, small cranes and their bare hands to dig through the wreckage in search of survivors.

At least 21 people were killed, a police official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. It was not immediately clear how many people remained missing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Trump backtracks on abortion

Donald Trump is fighting to convince a skeptical Republican Party he can improve his standing among women, even as he takes back an explosive comment about abortion and attacks the credibility of a female reporter police say was illegally grabbed by the billionaire's campaign manager.

It took Trump's campaign just hours to backtrack on Wednesday after he said that should abortion become illegal, women who undergo the procedure should face "some sort of punishment." The plan sparked a backlash, prompting Trump to release

two statements clarifying his position. His second statement said only those who perform abortions would be "held legally responsible, not the woman."

"The woman is a victim in this case as is the life in her womb," Trump said.

The flap comes as Trump works to hold off a challenge from chief rival Sen. Ted Cruz in Wisconsin's highest stakes primary next Tuesday.

A big loss for Trump in Wisconsin would reduce his chances of securing the delegates he

needs to clinch the party's nomination. It could also offer new hope to rival Ted Cruz and outside groups that see Trump as a threat.

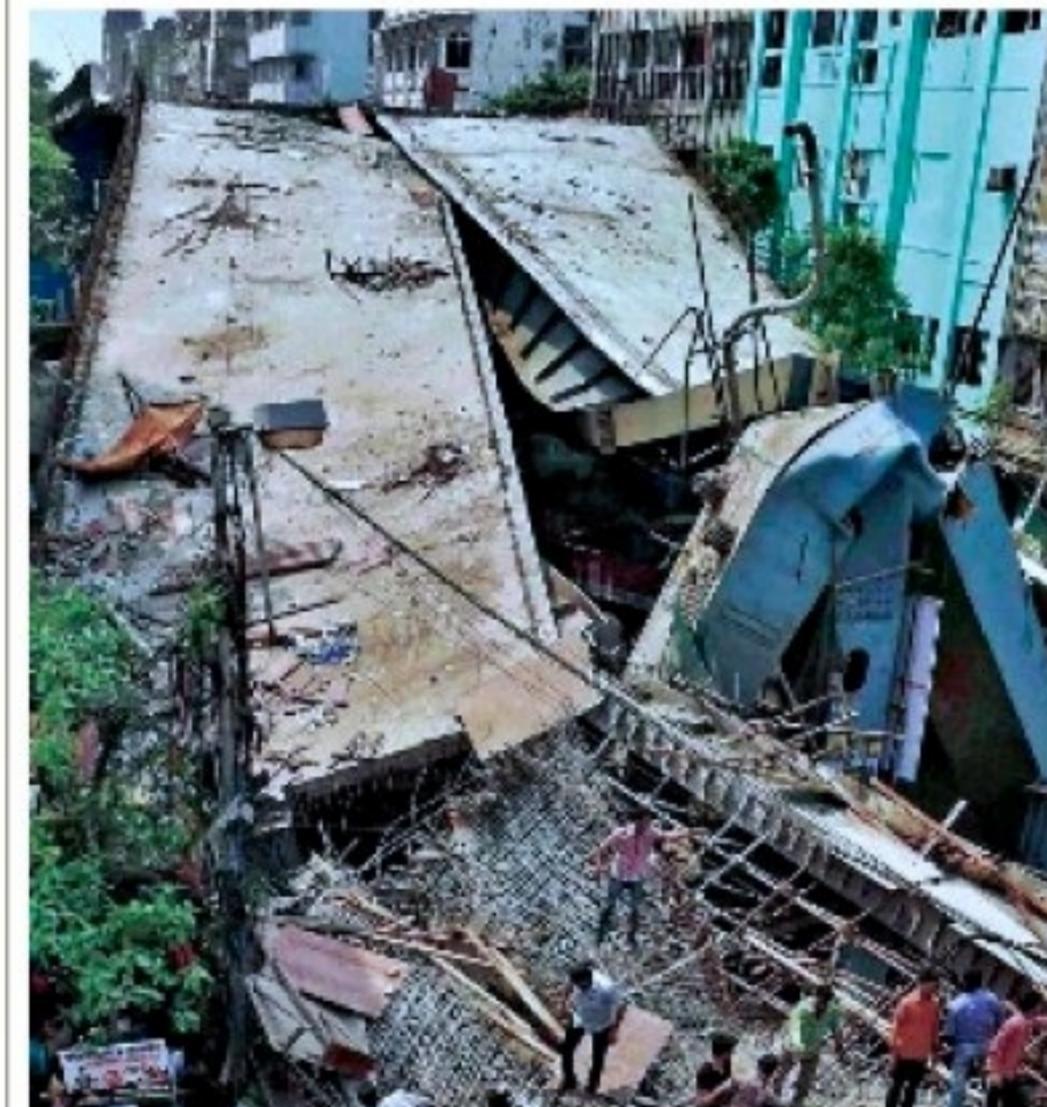


Donald Trump

Trump, however, still maintains a lead in the delegate count and with a win in Wisconsin, his grasp on the party's presidential nomination could be unbreakable.

Delegates pledged to candidates are elected in state primaries and then vote for the party's nominee at the national convention in July.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Nintendo goes mobile

TECHNOLOGY

Revenue from mobile gaming surpassing consoles

After a promising launch in Japan, Nintendo's long-overdue foray into mobile is set for a much wider test.

The Japanese electronics maker's free to download Miitomo mobile app for iOS and Android went live in the U.S. Thursday. Nintendo says Miitomo is also available in numerous other countries including Canada and in several languages.

While Nintendo remains committed to the video console business it has a powerful impetus for branching out given that Candy Crush maker King and others have demonstrated that a single mobile

game franchises can generate billion-dollar annual sales.

Industry research firm Newzoo estimates that mobile gaming revenue hit \$30 billion (U.S.) last year, surpassing console gaming at \$26.4 billion. Newzoo says while growth has cooled in North America and Europe, it remains explosive in Asia.

Nintendo is partnering with Tokyo Internet firm DeNA to develop and operate new game apps based on Nintendo's intellectual property, including its iconic game characters, for use on nearly ubiquitous mobile devices.

"With Miitomo, Nintendo takes its first step into the world of smart devices," said Scott Moffitt, Nintendo of America's executive vice president of sales and marketing.

Nintendo says the app was downloaded a million times in the first three days in Japan

after its release on March 17, ranking as the most downloaded free app on both the App Store and Google Play.

The company, however, is playing catch up in the increasingly crowded mobile game space and its in-app purchase strategy is unlikely to make up for a lack of paid app revenue in the early stages.

But analysts said the mobile offering could bring back players who migrated away from games on the company's dedicated hardware, such as the Wii and handheld DS devices.

"This should remove any doubts about the Nintendo brand's relevancy in the smartphone age," said Jefferies analyst Atul Goyal.

The family-friendly games maker plans to launch four more mobile games by the end of 2017 that will also be free to download.

Unlike Miitomo, future titles will include some of Nintendo's most popular characters and the company has promised to bring hits like Super Mario Bros. to mobile phones and tablets. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

With Miitomo, Nintendo takes its first step into the world of smart devices. Scott Moffitt



Nintendo is partnering with Tokyo Internet firm DeNA to develop and operate new game apps based on Nintendo's intellectual property, including its iconic game characters.

CONTRIBUTED

GAMING What's next?

Nintendo will always be beloved by gamers for its unique take on gaming. Here's a look at their main products and what might be coming next:

1 3DS — The DS line of products have sold more than 200-million units, but sales have declined over the past four years. It was the dominant portable system, and while beloved franchises and characters still sell well, it's facing huge competition from smartphone gaming, where the prices of games are a fraction of the price.

2 Wii U — Nintendo's latest home console has struggled ever since it launched, and just never captured the sales lightning of its predecessor, the Wii. However, most fans are already looking toward what's coming next.

3 Mobile — Miitomo is the first game out of Nintendo's partnership with DeNA, the first Japanese mobile game company that it's partnered with. The plan is to create new games based on the company's characters, but not release versions of older console games.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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The polar ice cap is the smallest we have ever seen it. Each winter, the vast arena of ice that covers the Arctic Ocean reaches a peak area big enough to cover all of Canada and about half the United States. This year is different. The ice's peak size is the smallest it's been in the 37 years we've measured it. Climate change is here, and **we could be in for some wild weather.**

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Scientists believe sea ice helps keep the circling mass of cold air we call the **polar vortex** close to the North Pole.

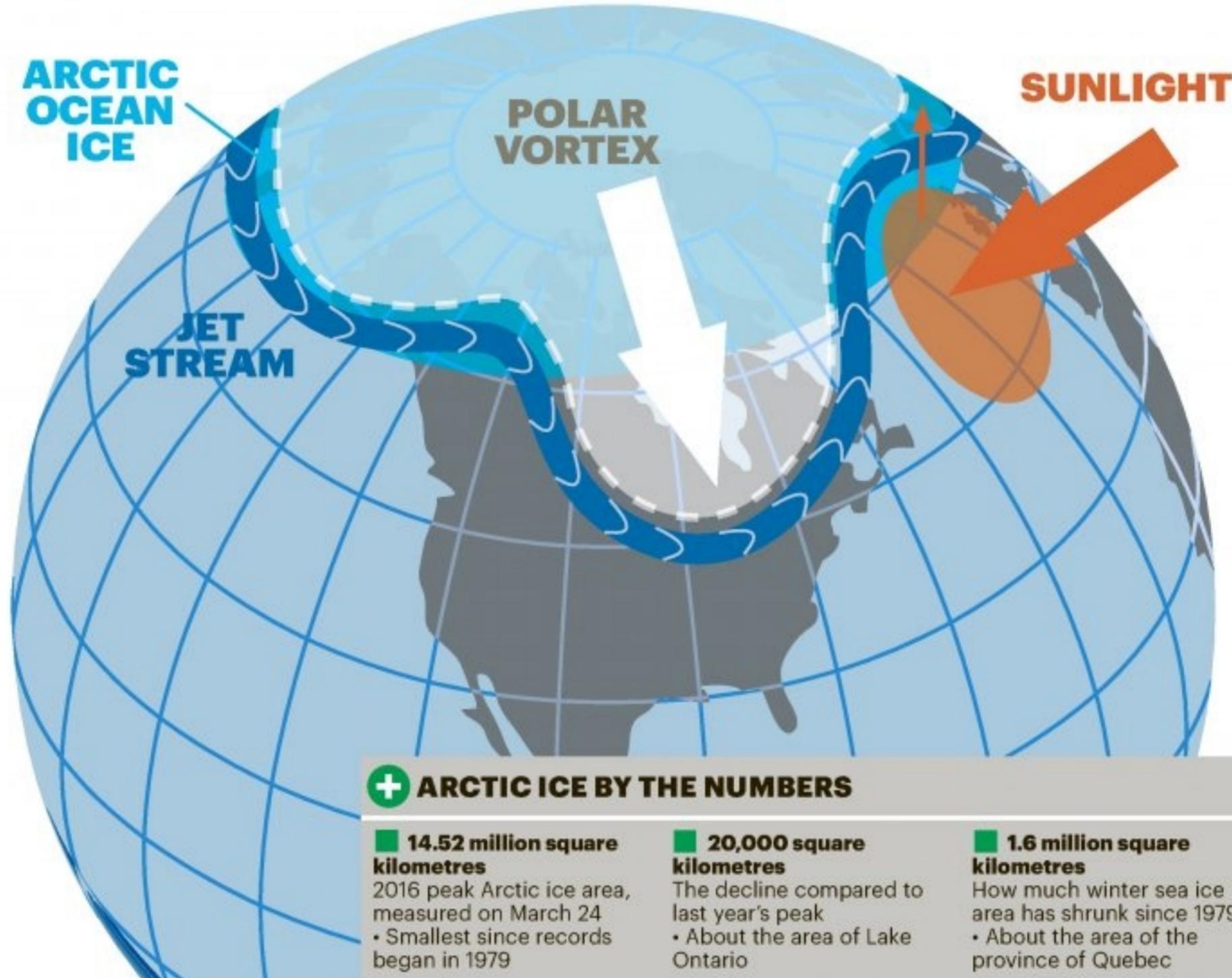
As global average temperatures have climbed, the **Arctic Ocean ice** has shrunk. Arctic temperatures were 5.5 to 8.3 C above normal this season.

With less ice to reflect **sunlight**, the ocean absorbs it.

This triggers changes to pressure and temperature and causes the **jet stream** to wander and wobble.

The result? Frigid **polar vortex** air travels south, unleashing cold snaps like the one expected in the next few days from Manitoba to the Maritimes. Brr!

A meandering **jet stream** is also a recipe for extreme weather events like Hurricane Sandy.



GRAPHIC: ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO



CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

I can't keep up — now, any alcohol is bad for me?

What, now even one or two drinks a day is unhealthy? I'm so sick of conflicting health advice! — Felicia, Vancouver

Dear Felicia,

Believe me, as a boxed-wine aficionado, I'm upset about this too. An analysis out of the University of Victoria this month looked at 87 past studies about the relationship between drinking alcohol and rates of death from any cause. It cast doubt on years of evidence suggesting people who

enjoy one or two drinks per day have lower rates of heart disease, diabetes and death than those who never drink at all. (That's premature death. The lifetime risk of death is 100 per cent). Here's the problem: 73 of these studies didn't sort the participants properly. Abstainers (people who don't drink and never have) were frequently lumped into the "non-drinkers" category along with people who currently abstain, but used to drink.

And why do people quit

drinking? Often because of health problems or old age. Light drinkers misleadingly appear healthier in comparison.

After adjusting the data for that, there was little difference in death rates between light drinkers and teetotallers. Light drinkers are at higher risk of cancer death, but a lower risk of heart disease.

This is one paper, not the final word on the topic. But it shows the need to be careful interpreting observational studies of health outcomes at

a big-picture, population level; so many variables are at play that it's hard to account for them all.

Here's what we do know: Any benefits of alcohol disappear above one or two drinks a day, and drinkers knocking back four or more risk addiction, serious health problems and early demise. But for most, light drinking is low-risk. I'll raise one or two glasses to that.

Science Question?
Tweet @genna_buck

FINDINGS
Your week in science



FACE FACTS

Ohio State University researchers say just one facial expression is universal: the "Not Face." Wherever you are in the world, the crinkled brow, thin lips and raised chin mean, "I do not agree."

ZOOMED IN ON ZIKA

Images taken with a powerful cryo-electron microscope show the sugar molecules on the outer shell of the Zika virus are in a different place than on similar viruses such as dengue. Purdue University biologists believe those sticky sugars may play a role in how Zika latches onto brain cells.

SOUND SMART



TRANSGENIC

DEFINITION

Transgenic living things have been engineered to contain genes from a different species.

Transgenic is a more accurate term than "genetically modified."

USE IT IN A SENTENCE

"Marco spent all day in the grocery store looking for cereal that is not **transgenic** — he doesn't know overwhelming evidence shows transgenic foods are perfectly safe to eat."

PHILOSOPHER CAT

by Jason Logan



Linklater goes for the raunch

FILM

Newest film set in 1980, before the cultural backlash

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Richard Linklater's new film *Everybody Wants Some!!* is set in that sweet spot between Saturday Night Fever and the Reagan Years.

Ripe with feathered hair, bell bottom pants and milk crates used as LP storage, it's the story of college life over the course of one weekend in 1980 set to the throbbing beat of disco and new wave music.

"It was a raunchy time," says Linklater. "It was pretty hedonistic. Sex, drugs and rock and roll. I had to impose that back on my cast."

"Disco was sex. Dancing was foreplay. You were hoping to keep it going and that it would get personal. The humour was really raunchy. It was not innocent but there was a certain kind of playfulness to it."

The 55-year-old director calls the 1980s "a good time for me. A good time to be in your twenties. I was that guy who took his album collection and his music and his speakers off to college. My entire net worth at that age was in music."

"You do a movie to exam-



Writer/director Richard Linklater, maker of *Boyhood* and *The Before Trilogy*, poses for pictures in Toronto. His new film *Everybody Wants Some!!* is a "spiritual sequel" to his early hit *Dazed and Confused*. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ine your feelings or what you think," he says. "I thought a lot about my own life at that time and also the culture. It's my little anthropological look (at 1980).

"I came out of it thinking that was the end of something. The eighties got much more serious. There was the AIDS epidemic but also there was the cultural backlash. There

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Midnight Special ★★★★
Everybody Wants Some!! ★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

was the Reagan administration, Pat Robertson, (Jerry)

Falwell and it's kind of a war and not only a war on drugs.

"They were trying to move the culture back to the fifties or some mythical past before all this corruption, i.e. the freedoms of the sixties, women's liberation. That was really in full gear by '82, '83 so I look at this and think, this was the last time there was that unabashed, raunchy hedonistic pure fun."

"I look at it and go, that

was a good time to be young because that was all going to change."

The Texas-born filmmaker says he spent his '80s college years underground, immersed in punk rock. "It was getting kind of ugly in accepted culture so I zoned out a lot of it."

Since then he has made a career chronicling contemporary suburban culture in films like *Slacker*, *Dazed and Confused* and most recently in the twelve-years-in-the-making *Boyhood*.

Along the way he's learned a thing or two about how society is changing.

"I think the culture has actually changed less and less," he says.

"I observed that on *Boyhood*. I thought the world would look a lot different in those twelve years. If you take 1969 to 1981 you got a lot of different looks, cars, everything. In *Boyhood* nothing changed. The phones changed but the cars all looked the same, the hairstyles."

"I think we've hit a wall. Technology is so quick moving that it satisfies that desire in us for change. Punk comes out of (the idea) that I want something new."

"I don't think humans feel that deep need for demonstrable rejection of the old and embracing of the new because they feel there is so much being satisfied technologically. Whatever urge that was to stick a safety pin in your cheek and go create a new dance, you don't see that anymore."



90s to now

Yup.
The music's better now.

NEW FILM

For con man, lying is just a way of life

The man who nearly stole over 70 million euros from France's business and banking elite is a serial manipulator who sees fraud not as a crime but as a way of life, according to those behind a new film based on the con artist's exploits.

Je Compte sur Vous — released in English under the name *Thank You for Calling* — is based on the exploits of the French-Israeli Gilbert Chikli, who engineered rogue payments by phoning companies and pretending to be the firm's



Thank You for Calling is based on the exploits of French-Israeli con man Gilbert Chikli. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CEO or a French intelligence agent. Those behind the film, which was released in France on Dec. 30, describe Chikli as a chameleon of a man, a brazen charmer whose boasts suggest he has yet to abandon his criminal career.

"Chikli is an unstoppable seduction machine," said director Pascal Elbe in a recent interview in Paris. "For him it's a job; it's definitely not a con."

Chikli's heists were astounding in their daring. With a little background research and a well-placed phone call, Chikli could cajole or bluster his way into organizing the transfer of several hundred thousand, a million or even millions of euros to bank accounts in Dubai, Russia, China or Hong Kong.

His victims put down the phone convinced they were speaking to their boss or to a genuine French spy.

When tricks or charm didn't work, Chikli turned to bullying; another employee was threatened with losing her job if she didn't immediately organize the transfer of nearly \$2 million to the U.K.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN



I was going to write about why you should go see *The Lobster*, a beautifully odd film that has a 92 per cent score on Rotten Tomatoes, instead of *Batman v. Superman*, which brought in \$424.1 million internationally last weekend despite its dismal 29 per cent rating.

But I'm not in the mood to be patronizing, at least not today, because Jim Harrison has passed away. He wrote poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, the latter of which has meant a great

Make no mistake: Harrison wasn't simply a gruff glutton — although he did suffer from gout, and he sure did love to drink

deal to me.

You might know Harrison as the author of *Legends of the Fall*, a novella he wrote in 1979 that was adapted into a Hollywood film starring Brad Pitt and Anthony Hopkins in 1994.

But "Mr. Harrison was also known for his essays on food," the New York Times wrote on Sunday of the 78-year-old who died on Saturday. "He was perhaps the leading exponent of the small sub-genre in which shotguns and shoe leather play a far greater role than balsamic reduction."

Make no mistake: Harrison wasn't simply a gruff glutton — although he did suffer from gout, and he sure did love to drink: his definition of a glass of wine with dinner meant a 16-ounce pour.

Harrison was a true Epicurean, where "a simple brunch of leftovers" might include "a pasta made from Swiss chard, fresh tomatoes, and copious garlic, and a duck leg and thigh."

Existentialism, after all, requires a healthy appetite.

"I get real tired and hungry trying to figure out the nature of existence, the nature of nature, and the apparent stillness at the heart of being," he wrote.

I fell hard for the way Harrison described living — in between stuffing

THE MOVIE: *Legends of the Fall*



THE MEAL: Bone-in cooked ham



and the hows and whys behind why the hell we're here, transcends gender, if you ask me.

He did this often during hunting expeditions at his cabin in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where he'd prepare both simple and lavish meals with his best friends, Montana-based painter Russell Chatham (Nicholson collects his art) and the Frenchman Guy de la Valdene. What I would've done to have pulled up a chair to that table.

The cabin is also where Harrison, whose wife of 55 years, Linda, passed away in October, sought solitude during depressive bouts. He was like a modern-day Thoreau, whom he quoted often — along with references to Buddha, Rilke, and Chinese poets — in the way he chronicled his observations of nature, which was never convoluted.

Mostly, he was in awe of it: the small feeling you get under a night sky, thick with dark and stars.

And then there was food: "On my deathbed I will not care how I looked in the mirror, or to others, for that matter," he wrote 25 years ago in an essay called *One Foot in the Grave*, "but I will rehearse with pleasure the tablespoon dipping inaudibly into the kilo of beluga."

I can't afford caviar but I did have a bone-in cooked ham, which I glazed with a slick paste of apricot preserves, Dijon mustard and thyme, and served alongside scalloped potatoes and a simple cabbage salad.

We watched *Legends of the Fall* and argued over who'd seen it more times. It sure is clunkier than I remember.

But that wasn't Harrison's fault.
(And let's not blame Brad.)
I cried all the same.

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The faith and fear of being a parent

MIDNIGHT SPECIAL

Jeff Nichols talks anxiety, ambivalence in sci-fi road film

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

In the films *Take Shelter* and *Mud*, director Jeff Nichols explored themes of social anxiety caused by fear of the unknown.

When I suggest that his new movie, *Midnight Special* — a sci-fi road film about a father and a son with special powers — continues that examination, he agrees, but only to a point.

"I certainly think you could make that statement and it would be fair," he says, "but it doesn't exactly line up with what I was thinking."

"I was thinking about what it is to be a parent. I think being a parent is to have faith in the unknown."

"You don't know what your children are going to grow up to be. You don't know what's going to happen to them. You don't know if they are going to make it all the way."

"You have to have faith in who they can be, who they are developing into. Who they are currently. I think that is what parenthood is and I think that is why there is so much fear and anxiety that comes from being a parent."

Nichols says he originally



Joel Edgerton, Michael Shannon, Jaeden Lieberher and Kirsten Dunst in *Midnight Special*.
BEN ROTHSTEIN/COURTESY WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT/TNS

came up with the idea for a "sci-fi government chase film" but adds, "That could be really silly, so I think it is up to me as a filmmaker to apply these kind of personal feelings I have and my relationships to the locations and to the world at large to try to ground this film and give it some kind of actual purpose."

To complete the picture, Nichols cast Michael Shannon as the father. A frequent collaborator, Shannon has starred in all of Nichols'

films, including the upcoming *Loving*.

"I think he makes me a better writer, especially in a film like *Midnight Special* where I'm trying to reduce the need for backstory to be delivered through monologues."

"When you have a person like Mike, he fills all the spaces between the lines with all that subtext."

"He carries it on his face, in his countenance. He is the complete story and he doesn't even have to say a word."

Midnight Special is the extraordinary kind of sci-fi



I think my films point toward hope but don't fully embrace it.

Jeff Nichols

movie that teases out the information bit by bit.

We learn enough to stay involved and are treated to several spectacular and excit-

ing scenes along the way, but when it comes time to put a period on the story, Nichols instead uses an ellipsis in a metaphysical ending that will mean different things to different people.

It owes a nod to his old hero Stephen Spielberg but feels distinctly like a Jeff Nichols film.

"If you look at *ET* and the bicycle flying and all these other moments that are classic moments in Spielberg films, they are wonderful. I don't do that."

"For better and for worse, I don't do that. Maybe it's because I live in the modern age and am a bit more of a pessimist."

"I don't consider myself a cynic. I like films that ultimately are hopeful, but there is a different kind of conclusion in my films than his films."

"I think my films point toward hope but don't fully embrace it. I think that is the difference."

"It could also be the difference between a blockbuster and whatever this is going to be, but that is who I am as a person."

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MUSIC

Good music awaits in this city known for jazz and blues

Kansas City has a wide-open selection of bars to help the business traveller shake off that last meeting and down beverages poured from full-size bottles not found in the mini-bar.

There are also loads of taverns that aim to sully your gin and quiet with music — DJs, karaoke, a guy on a guitar.

And then there is the Blue Room, where patrons head when the need for good music pushes aside those lower-brain

urges. You don't go to the Blue Room just to have a drink, chit chat or get rid of another night.

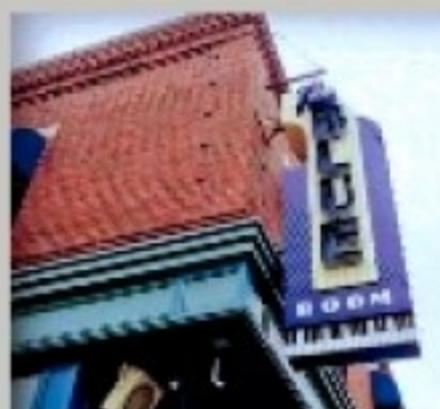
You go to the Blue Room to listen, and not in a background-fill-in-the-gaps kind of way, but in a "Hey — pay attention!" kind of way.

The Blue Room is a small two-tiered space adjoining Kansas City's American Jazz Museum in the Historic 18th & Vine Jazz District, a few miles from the hotels and convention locales of Crown Center, downtown and the Country Club Plaza. It's dark, the bar is stocked, the tables small.

On a recent Friday night, by 8:40 p.m., apart from a couple bar stools, the place was standing-room-only packed. The draw that night was the James Ward

IF YOU GO

The Blue Room: 1616 E. 18th St., Kansas City, Missouri; club.american-jazzmuseum.org. Open Mondays and Thursdays, 5 p.m.-11 p.m. (entertainment starts at 7 p.m., admission free); Fridays, 5 p.m.-1 a.m.; Saturdays, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. (entertainment Friday-Saturday begins 8:30 p.m. with \$10 cover unless otherwise noted).



The Blue Room. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Area Museums: The American Jazz Museum and Negro Leagues Baseball Museum are located in the same building as the Blue Room. The museums are open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays noon-6 p.m.; combined tickets to both museums cost \$15, adults, and \$8, children 5-12, or for one museum, \$10, adults, or \$6, children.

but they were a minority.

The Blue Room "is a working jazz club exhibit" that hosts veteran musicians and new bands, locals and the internationally

known, said Christopher Burnett, marketing and communications manager for the American Jazz Museum. Ida McBeth makes regular appearances.

It's open Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, with the last Monday of the month usually for big bands, and the last Thursday for Latin Jazz and Salsa. "We've got some pretty good Latin bands here in Kansas City, and they pack the place," Burnett said. "And, we have about a dozen big bands in Kansas City that are off the chain."

The Blue Room also holds a free jam session on Monday evenings where musicians of all skill levels can sit in with veterans. For the next trip to Kansas City, pack your sax.

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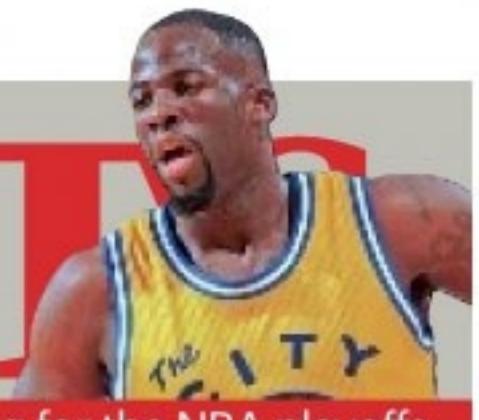
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"It is something we want to do": Draymond Green whose 68-7 Warriors will go for a record 73 wins instead of resting for the NBA playoffs



Playoff purgatory sums up holy mess nationwide

NHL

First blackout of post-season since 1970 new low for Canada

It's rare — and almost unthinkable for hockey fans — but the Stanley Cup playoffs will go ahead without any Canadian teams.

The Ottawa Senators were the last club to be eliminated on Wednesday night, despite beating the Winnipeg Jets 2-1. The Philadelphia Flyers' 2-1 shootout win over the Washington Capitals mathematically eliminated the Sens.

The Jets, Montreal Canadiens, Toronto Maple Leafs, Calgary Flames, Edmonton Oilers and Vancouver Canucks had already fallen short and will stand aside as 16 U.S.-based clubs battle for the Cup.

"It's such a big part of our culture in Canada and ever since I can remember growing up, gearing up for that first round of playoffs is huge," said Calgary Flames captain Mark Giordano, a Toronto native. "It's disappointing that we're not going to have a team from Canada represented."

"But there are still a lot of great players, a lot of great teams, a lot of great Canadian players on American teams,

so I'm sure the fans will still enjoy it and it will be another great playoff."

It is only the second time it has happened in NHL history. But it has been coming, with the Leafs, Oilers, Flames and Jets all missing the post-season more often than not in recent years.

In 2014, Montreal was the only Canadian club in the playoffs. In 2011 and 2012, there were only two.

It will cost the teams millions in lost ticket and merchandise sales. Bars, restaurants and retailers of team jerseys and flags will miss out on the extra sales from playoff fever.

"All the teams come into the year certainly hoping for more than we have," said Canucks coach Willie Desjardins. "As a country we just take so much pride in our hockey. It's hard to believe I guess in some ways that one of the teams wouldn't get in."

"I think it's a fluke," said Montreal defenceman Nathan Beaulieu. "Every team has Canadian players, so I don't think it has anything to do with Canadian teams."

Five Canadian squads reached the playoffs last season, with Winnipeg grabbing the last wild card spot in the Western Conference to reach the post-season for the first time in four years.

LAST TIME OUT

The last time no Canadian team made the playoffs was in 1970, when the Maple Leafs finished sixth and last in their division and the Canadiens ended up fifth, losing the final playoff spot to the New York Rangers on a tie-breaker.

Los Angeles rearguard Drew Doughty and Pittsburgh centre Sidney Crosby are still in the hunt.

"This league is very competitive and there is no rhyme or reason why there is not a Canadian team in the playoffs," said Edmonton forward Matt Hendricks, an American. "It's unfortunate because of the blood, sweat and tears that the fans in this country put into the game. It's just an off-year."

"I think it's a fluke," said Montreal defenceman Nathan Beaulieu. "Every team has Canadian players, so I don't think it has anything to do with Canadian teams."

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THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alex Chiasson scored the game winner in the Senators' 2-1 win at MTS Centre on Wednesday night, but Ottawa was still ousted from playoff contention. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Sid back in elite situation

It's not a feeling Sidney Crosby encounters often, if ever.

The Pittsburgh Penguins captain and Cole Harbour native isn't usually searching for answers like he was early this season. Not only were goals hard to come by, Crosby felt as though he wasn't effective at all.

He didn't land his first point until the sixth game of October, had only two goals through the first 18 games, and finished the first month of the season with just five points (five) of his career. From overall production to puck possession, just about every measure suggested something was off with arguably the game's best player.

More troubling for Crosby were the lack of chances.

"You'd go through times where it wouldn't go in and that's one thing, but I hadn't really gone through something where you weren't really feeling like you had much of an impact on the game," Crosby said. "And that was the tough part."

The struggles persisted well into November before Crosby finally turned a corner. He's since reclaimed his place among the league's top echelon.

"Looking back I was probably guilty of trying to do too much," Crosby said. "I just felt like I just needed to go out and play and not think about the ones that weren't going in and just think about how I can just get back to feeling good out there and getting chances."

He took a step back and simplified his approach, concluding that he had to get his edge back in hounding the puck. Protect it and attack it more ferociously and the offence would follow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

53

Crosby's been on an unrivalled tear in 2016. The Cole Harbour native has 23 goals and 30 assists in 40 games since Jan. 1 after notching an assist in Thursday's 4-2 win over Nashville.

IN BRIEF

Henderson draws hordes

Brooke Henderson had by far the most fans following her first round of the ANA Inspiration on Thursday. The 18-year-old from Smiths Falls, Ont., is getting used to the support.

"It's super cool," Henderson said. "Every round it seems there are more fans and not only just from Canada. Though there is a huge Canadian crowd out here this week."

Henderson opened with a 1-over 73 and was six shots

behind leader Ai Miyazato. Henderson is making her second start at Mission Hills after tying for 26th in the major championship in 2014.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miller to play through pain

New York Yankees reliever Andrew Miller plans to pitch with a broken wrist in his glove hand. Miller sustained a chip fracture of his right wrist Wednesday when hit by a line drive off the bat of Atlanta's Willians Astudillo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

Eyeball's on Halifax tourney

 **Kristen Lipscombe**
Metro | Halifax

A new Halifax-based web business has its eyes on the amateur sports world.

Eyeball, Inc., launched its website and accompanying app for everything from organizing league stats to live-tweeting games scores Thursday, in conjunction with puck drop on the SEDMHA international minor hockey tour-

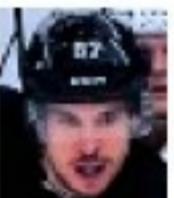
nament, which runs from March 31 through April 3 at rinks across Halifax Regional Municipality.

The fresh-looking online platform even features "live crowd-sourced score-keeping and commentary," according to the Eyeball website, www.eyeball.io.

"The SEDMHA Honda Tournament is the perfect opportunity for us to launch our web platform," Eyeball CEO Jay Steele said in a news release issued Thursday.

Eyeball is helping more than 200 teams, along with parents and fans, to stay updated throughout this weekend's SEDMHA tournament, the release said.

"Eyeball will assist the SEDMHA coaches, parents and players with everything from showcasing division brackets, coordinating carpooling and tracking stats, among countless other details," SEDMHA chairman Wayne MacDonald said in the news release.



Sidney Crosby

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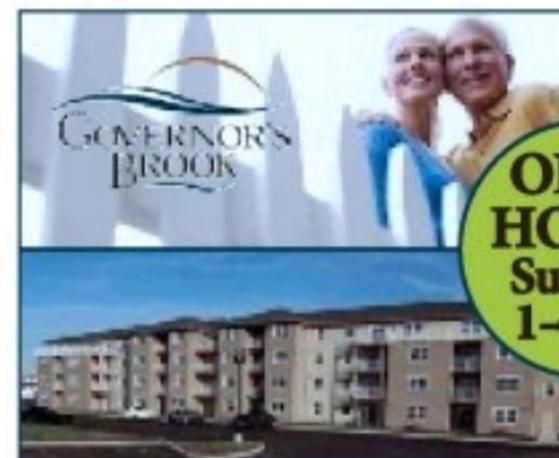
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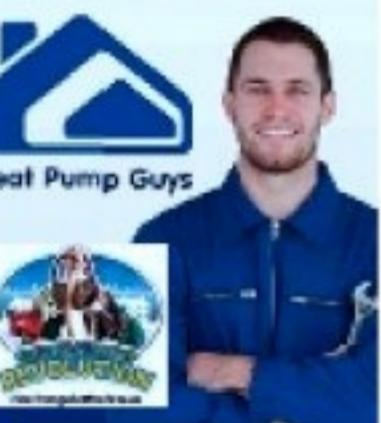
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RECIPE Chicken Chili Tacos

PHOTO: MAYA VISNEY

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

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Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 8 hours

Ingredients

- 6 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 1/2 cups prepared pico de gallo or salsa
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice (about 1 1/2 limes)
- 2 teaspoons cumin seeds, lightly toasted
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 12 taco shells (crisp or

soft/flour or corn)

Directions

1. Place chicken, pico de gallo or salsa, lime juice, cumin seeds and garlic in a slow cooker and stir to combine. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours. (You can also cook on high for 3 hours.)
2. Allow to cool a bit. Scoop the chicken out with a big slotted spoon and place it in a large serving bowl. Use two forks to pull the meat apart. The chicken will shred easily. Stir in some cooking juice from the pot and top with the cilantro.
3. Place the shredded chicken, your taco shells and desired fixings on the table and let everyone put together their perfect taco.

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*** IT'S ALL IN THE STARS** Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a good day to count your blessings, and one of the biggest blessings for Aries this year is that you can improve your job. You also can improve your health.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This year, more than a decade in the past and a decadent future, you have the best chance to enjoy vacations — a major vacation or a series of little getaways.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an excellent year to benefit from real-estate deals. You will improve your home life and all your family relationships.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A positive state of mind is the secret of happiness. And this is what you have in spades this year. It's easy to be optimistic!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You can earn more money this year, which is good news for your sign — you like to spend big. You'll be laughing all the way to the bank.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
With lucky Jupiter in your sign now, life couldn't be better. Of course, nothing is perfect, because it never is. But you have the advantage now over all the other signs.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your spiritual life will be more important now for a number of reasons. Welcome this opportunity to be introspective and come to terms with what really matters in life.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is such a popular year for you! Enjoy meeting new friends. And enjoy joining clubs, groups and organizations. Remember: Your relations with others will benefit you this year.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is the perfect year to put your name up in lights. It's easy to impress others, because they see you in such positive terms. (Milk this for all it's worth)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Grab every opportunity to travel, because you want to expand your horizons this year. This is also a good year for publishing, the media and higher education.

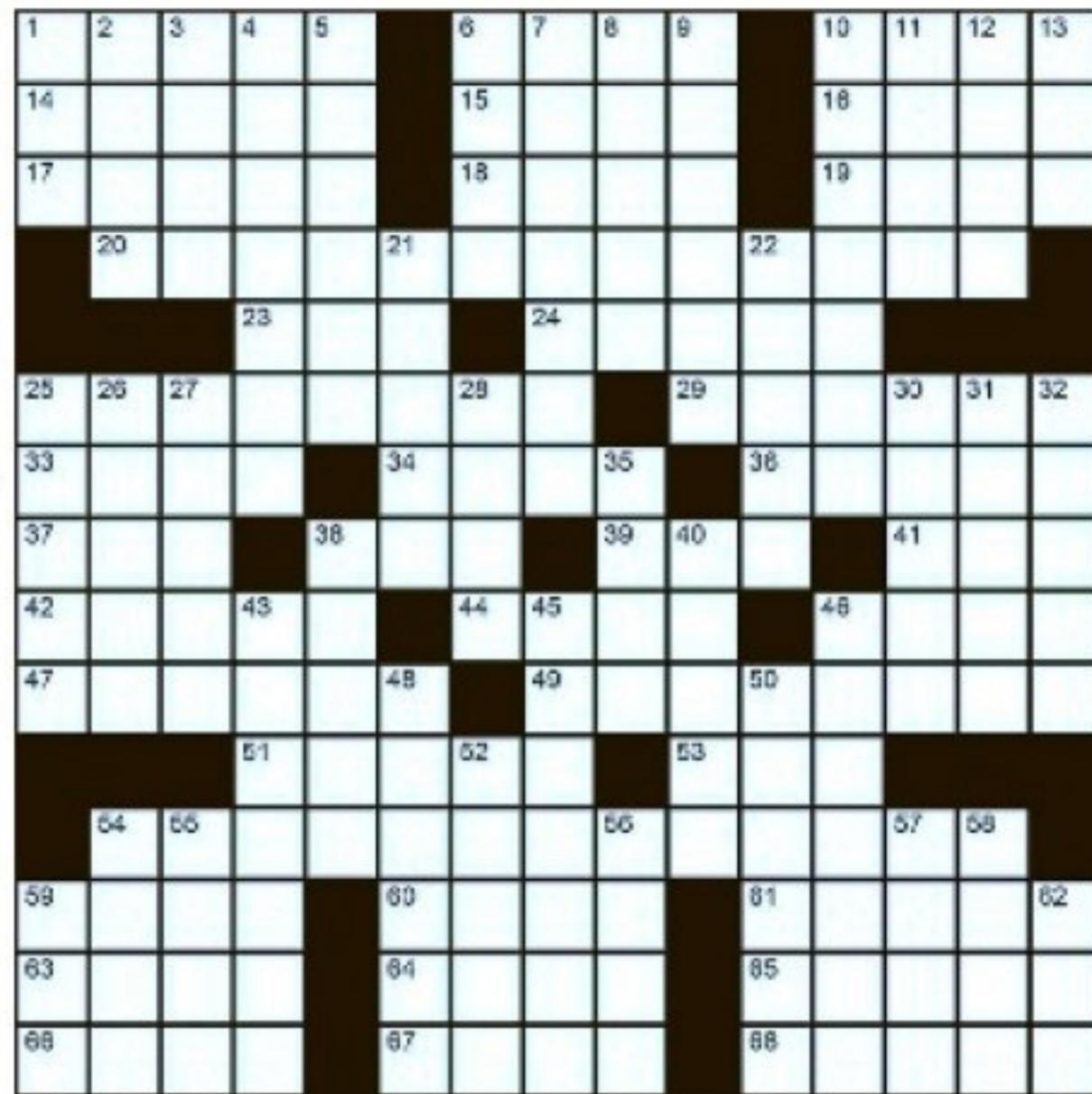
Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Gifts, goodies and the wealth of others will benefit you this year. Keep your pockets open and enjoy this advantage.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a wonderful year for relationships for you. In fact, this is the best year in over a decade for Pisces people to get married. Oh my.

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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- 13. 'Velvet' suffix
- 21. "The _ Mutiny" (1954)
- 22. Rolling Stones album of 1969: 'Let It _'
- 25. Panorama
- 26. Tom _ (Robert Duvall's character in 'Godfather' movies)
- 27. After _ (Mints)
- 28. Oscar-winner Patricia
- 30. " _ Magnolias" (1989)
- 31. The _ of the story...
- 32. Cobra, for one
- 35. " _ the Explorer"
- 38. Shrub variety
- 40. Hawaiian-style veranda
- 43. Twin brother of Remus in ancient Roman mythology
- 45. Reykjavik's realm
- 46. Puny punctuation
- 48. "Ta ta!" : 2 wds.
- 50. Fished
- 52. Divulged
- 54. Swelter
- 55. Bemoaned
- 56. Raised flatland
- 57. Clip
- 58. Fabled snow creature
- 59. Andy Capp's wife
- 62. Clear

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

5			3	6
	7	9		
1		2		
2			9	1
9	5	1		5
3		1		2
	6	4		
4	7			3

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